The Bible and Daily Living

Jesus' ministry affirmed

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Jesus' Ministry Affirmed
Lesson for January 24, 1982
Bible Study Passages: Luke 3:15-22; 7:19-23
Introduction

What you see is what you get is not always true! I received two roses by mail clearly marked Crimson Glory and Queen Elizabeth. When the roses matured the Crimson Glory (normally a deep red) was actually yellow, and the so called Queen Elizabeth was of another variety.

Irony is the notion of expecting one thing but getting another. Irony is the preacher saying that all alcohol should be poured into the sea and the choir standing to sing "Shall We Gather at the River!" Irony is going turkey hunting and coming home with a hawk! (That actually happened to me on a cold morning in 1979.)

In this week's lesson we will note that many Jewish people expected John the baptizer to be the long-awaited Messiah. They soon found out, however, that John was only an emcee who was to announce the arrival of Christ. It was his business to "prepare the way of the Lord."

John sought to arouse the people's sense of expectancy through his preaching of repentance and hope. He described for them a power mightier than he, "the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

One Mightier Than I [Luke 3:15-22]

John seemed to know his place and stuck to it. He played a role in the divine drama in which Christ would come to establish and make known his kingdom. John could have taken advantage of his power and influence, but he knew what his limits were and he knew what he was sent to do. He did not overstep those boundaries.

John may have been more than mildly surprised by the kingdom Jesus set in motion. The term "mightier" seems to suggest that even John may have expected a militant, political redeemer. Jesus was uniquely different from John in all respects. John preached repentance and baptism, but Jesus came and revealed the Father in heaven and life as it was meant to be.

The baptism of Jesus has great significance. Jesus' baptism was an affirmation and divine approval of his public ministry. He was not baptized as a gesture of forgiveness for sin, for that would be contrary to the New Testament portrayal of Christ as one who knew no sin. In response to his baptism, Jesus positioned himself in an attitude of prayer for guidance in carrying out the Father's will.

Jesus' Response to John [Luke 7:19-23]

It appears from the biblical record that John was imprisoned, sometime after the baptism of Jesus. John had blistered Herod for taking his brother's wife to be his own. Next we find John seemingly expressing some doubt or confusion about Jesus and who he was. In prison, John has time to reflect and wonder about Jesus and his power. There is sadness in his question, "Can this be the Messiah?" Perhaps John's expectations had changed in light of his imprisonment. In the face of danger and life-threatening circumstance, John looks for hope. John basically asks just as we might ask, "Are you he who should come, or has God abandoned us?"

Jesus did not send word back to John that would affirm or deny his personhood. Instead, Jesus points to the signs and events of God's kingdom at work. His actions of healing and moving people in the direction of spiritual and physical wholeness were evidence of God's kingdom in motion.

Jesus represented a new age in which God was manifested through a personal visitation in the flesh-through the Christ. This same manifestation is to be carried on through the church and its ministry to suffering humanity. The church is to reflect or mirror the goodness of God through its ministries of grace and healing.

There were some who found Jesus offensive because he did not measure up to their expectations. Jesus did not come to fulfill the whims of those who wanted a militant warrior or a king with eyes on wealth and lands. He came to serve and offer his life that we might live; he did not come to fill a political office. He offers both abundant and eternal.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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The Pastor Speaks

By BOB WILLIAMS
God's Remedy For Sin

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (II Corinthians 5:21)

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Mankind can accept God's remedy for his lost hopeless condition thereby knowing peace on this earth (John 14:27; Phil. 4:7) and a home in heaven (John 14:1-3) or else try to bring about his own salvation by human means thereby knowing unrest on this earth (Matthew 11:28-30) and a home in a burning hell (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:14).

I. One of those human means of salvation is **self-righteousness** as opposed to the **righteousness of God.** Jesus said, "For I have not come to all the righteous, but sinners." (Matt. 9:23) A reference to those who feel they have it made within their own efforts and do not need the forgiveness and true life which is only possible through acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross. We can make many appeals to the world as to why they should accept Christ as their savior but the greatest appeal of all is the face that the Son of God became incarnate (flesh) for our sins and has suffered and died in our place to pay the penalty for sin. Christ was made sin for us because he was a sacrifice for sin. He was treated as if he were a sinner through he was perfectly Holy and pure; we are treated as if we are righteous though we are defiled and depraved. This is God's plan of **substitution.**

II. A second human means of salvation is **self-reform** while needing to be **regenerated.** (Titus 3:3-7) There are times when people realize their life-style is contrary to their best interest and say within themselves, "I am going to do better." That is an admirable thought but it does not have the stability that only a life in Christ has (Proverbs 14:12). You must be born again. You must realize your lost condition without Christ, be sorry for your sins with a sincere desire to turn from them, and invite Christ into your heart to be your personal savior. This and this alone provides for a lasting reform and a new life. Reform in your life is brought about by the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

God's remedy for sin is Jesus Christ. Will you accept him today as your personal savior and let him do as he wills for your life. Happiness is not freedom to do as you choose and freedom from responsibility, but happiness is accepting the responsibility of a worthy cause and there is no more worthy cause than Jesus Christ and his kingdom. (John 3:16)

Bob Williams is pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

Times-Virginian Church News

Gospel sing set

There will be a gospel singing at the church of God of Prophecy on State Rd. 1010 on January 23, 1982 at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome all local talent. Come and lets enjoy an evening of gospel singing fellowship.

Mass planned

Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at the Oakville School. C.C.D. for grades one through eight will be held at 10:30 a.m. prior to Mass. C.C.D. for high school age will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday evening.

The Reverend Albert Pereira of Hurt is pastor.

WOW meeting set

Camp 71 and Grove 6073 will hold its meeting for installation of officers on Monday, January 25 at 7:30 at the WOW Hall.

All members are urged to attend.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

The Concord Rescue Squad wishes to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the many friends who contributed in anyway toward our fund drive.

The outstanding interest shown by our friends, neighbors, businesses and industries helped us reach our $25,000.00 operational goal for the coming year.

We pray God will richly bless each one of you. May you have a safe and happy year ahead.

Charles V. Rath
P. R. Chairman

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IN HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COUNTY
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA 24522
ESTABLISHED IN 1892

Bill Sherrod.....Editor and General Manager
Frances Paulette.....Assistant Editor
Allen Austin.....Advertising Manager
Melanie Fraley.....Classified
Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, P.O. Box 2097, Appomattox, Virginia 24522.

Subscription rates: $9.00 a year in Appomattox, and all adjoining counties; All others $12.00, payable in advance
Member: Virginia Press Association

Single Copy: 25 cents

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

The County 4-H Share-the-Fun show will be held on Saturday, February 20, rather than on the 12th as originally planned. The change is due to a regional chorus program that involved many of the senior 4-H members. Share-the-Fun try-outs will begin next week as 4-H'ers will be taking part in Share-the-Fun programs each afternoon at Appomattox Elementary School. Awards for 4-H Share-the-Fun are provided by American Federal Savings and Loan Association.

* *

The details are now complete for the new 4-H Dark Fired Tobacco Production Project for 4-H'ers. Members who are 12-19 years of age may sign up in the 4-H young tobacco growers contest which is being sponsored by the Virginia Dark Fired Tobacco Commission. Almost $300.00 in prizes will be awarded to the top young growers in an eleven county area. 4-H members interested in the program may call the Extension Office for details.

* *

The 4-H policy concerning snow day or inclement weather is generally to cancel 4-H events on the day that schools are closed. There may be local exceptions for some community clubs, etc. so give us a call if you're not sure.

* *

4-H will be sponsoring a series of child care workshops in the near future to help teenagers learn to care for young children during babysitting experiences. The workshops will cover such topics as feeding, bathing, health care, what to do in emergencies, etc. Details will be announced to 4-H groups ages 12 and up.

* *

We will be accepting 4-H strawberry orders through Thursday of this week. A supply of order forms is available through the Extension Office. It is important that we order the plants early so that the varieties selected will be available for delivery in early March.

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Obituaries

Mrs. Mabel Gilliam Fortune

Mrs. Mabel Gilliam Fortune, 70, of 2236 King Street, died at 12:45 p.m. Friday, January 15 in Lynchburg General Hospital.

She was born in Prince Edward County, a daughter of the late Eugene Hopkins and Elizabeth Grey Moore Gilliam. She was retired from General Electric Company and was a member of Fairview Christian Church and past Noble Grand of Fairview Rebekah Lodge No. 52, Lynchburg.

She is survived by a son, Phillip Alton Fortune, Utrecht, Holland; a brother, Wilson B. Gilliam, Spout Spring; two sisters, Mrs. Janet G. Faust, Lynchburg, and Mrs. Lucille Worrell, Richmond, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 1 p.m. from Fairview Christian Church by Dr. Willis Davis and Dr. Jan Linn. Burial was in Olive Branch United Methodist Church Cemetery in Prince Edward County.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Annie Layne Jordan

Mrs. Annie Layne Jordan, 78, who resided with her granddaughter, Mrs. Rex (Patsy) Beach, at 109 Kenwood Drive, died at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 in Lynchburg General Hospital, after a short illness.

She was born Aug. 1, 1903, in Campbell County, a daughter of the late Robert and Missie Strong Layne. She was the wife of the late Roy Van Jordan Sr. She was retired from Lynchburg Hosiery Mill and was a member of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Hill City Senior Citizens.

Surviving are one son, Roy V. Jordan Jr., and two daughters, Mrs. Al (Shirley) Correia and Mrs. James (Verlie) Christian, all of Lynchburg; one sister, Mrs. Pearl L. Brandt, Concord; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted from Whitten Park Avenue Chapel at 11 a.m. Tuesday by the Rev. James G. Thompson, with burial in Fort Hill Memorial Park.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Russell Nimblett

Mr. Russell Nimblett, Spout Spring, departed this life at his residence Monday morning, January 11.

Born in Appomattox County, he was the son of the late Norman Niblett and the late Maggie Nimblett.

He is survived by an aunt, Mrs. Katy Burrell, New York City; and devoted friends, the Rev. and Mrs. Harrison Kelso, Spout Spring.

Graveside services were conducted Wednesday, January 13 at 2 p.m. from the Mount Shiloh Baptist Church cemetery, Spout Spring.

Carl B. Hutcherson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mary Elizabeth C. Seamster

PHENIX - Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Clawson Seamster, 80, of Route 1, Phenix, died Wednesday morning, Jan. 13 at Lynchburg General Hospital. Her husband was the late John A. Seamster.

She was born Feb. 20, 1901, in Lee County, daughter of the late Champ Clawson and the late Susie P. Clawson. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Joseph Seamster and Robert Seamster, both of Phenix; one daughter, Mrs. Frances Kelly of Phenix; one brother, Richard Clawson of Virginia, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Friday at 3 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church by the Revs. Elton McDowell and Harold Beagle. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Henderson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Russell McConie Shelton

Russell McConie Shelton, 61, Pamplin, died Sunday, Jan. 17 at the VA Hospital. He was the husband of Druscilla Wright Shelton.

Born in Madison County, N. C., he was the son of the late Carl V. and Sadie Shelton. He was a retired sawer and a veteran of World War II.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons, Ronald Shelton, Appomattox, Steve Shelton and David Shelton, both of Hopewell; one daughter, Fredia Marston, Redhouse; one sister, Mrs. Bertha Shelton, Pamplin; one brother, Humphrey Shelton, Canandaigua, N. Y.; and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 at the Robinson Funeral Home by the Rev. J. W. Williams with burial in the Rocks Baptist Church cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Josie Mae England Stitt

Josie Mae England Stitt, 74, of 2620 Mayflower Drive died Tuesday evening, January 12, at Medical Care Center. She was the wife of the late James William Stitt.

Born in McDowell County, W. Va., she was a daughter of the late W. M. England and Minerva Milam England. She was a member of First Pilgrim Baptist Church.

She is survived by four sons, James D. Stitt of Corbin, Tracy L. Stitt of Lynchburg and Franklin D. Stitt and Glenn A. Stitt, both of Madison Heights; three daughters, Aleen S. Fraley and Carrie M. Shirley, both of Lynchburg, and Jerldeen S. Miller of Concord; four sisters, Della E. Toliver of Chicago, Ill., Ethel E. Bishop and Addie E. Brown, both of Welch, W. Va., and Ruby E. Burks of Big Sandy, W. Va.; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Friday at Whitten Park Avenue Chapel by the Revs. William W. Wilson and Spencer Burks. Interment was in Fort Hill Memorial Park.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Calvin C. Tolley

PAMPLIN - Calvin Coolidge Tolley, 57, of Pamplin, died at 3:45 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 14 in Guggenheimer Nursing Home.

Born in Pamplin, he was a son of Mrs. Margaret Dickerson Tolley of Pamplin and the late Willie J. Tolley.

His body has been given to science. There was a memorial service on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m. in Piney Ridge United Methodist Church.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by two brothers, Willie J. Tolley Jr. of Richmond and Frank E. Tolley of Anchorage, Alaska, and four sisters, Louise Penley of Petersburg, Doris C. Price and Carol Francisco of Richmond and Ann Dillon of Alexandria.

Mrs. Mable Staples White

Mrs. Mable Staples White, 65, 510 Oak Trail Drive, died at 6:40 p.m. Sunday, January 17 at her residence.

She was born in Appomattox County, a daughter of Martha Glover Staples, Lynchburg and formerly of Evergreen, and the late Jesse Calvin Staples. She was a member of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Roger (Peggy) Mason, Evington, Mrs. Wayne (Martha) Wirt, Lynchburg, Mrs. Tony (Cary) Smario, Greensboro, N. C., and Mrs. Larry (Sara) Adams, Lynchburg; two sons, John D. (Chip) White, and Joel C. (Joe) White, both of Lynchburg; and 10 grandchildren, Charles Wayne Wirt Jr., Carlton L. Wirt, Cindy G. Mason, Steven Burks, Kimberly Burks, Jennifer Adams, Andy White, Benjamin White, Spencer Adams, and Albert White.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday at 2:30 from Robinson Funeral Home by the Rev. James Thompson.

Ronnie Stone re-enlists

Navy Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class Ronnie C. Stone, whose wife, Sherry, is the daughter of Conrad L. and Ruby F. Seymour of Star Route Box 15, Pamplin, Va., has reenlisted for four years while serving at the Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Va.

He joined the Navy in May 1972.

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